

RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD PHYSICIANS.

Tribute to the Memory of Dr. P. A. Wilhite, delivered at the Regular Monthly Meeting of Anderson, S. C., County Medical Society, October 10th, 1898.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Medical Society: To-day I present to you the name of one of our deceased members who was so familiar to you all that I feel like I am talking to his own family about him, and perhaps what I may say on this occasion is so familiar to you that it may not be appreciated. I must, however, remember that a new generation is coming on, and in after years, when I am forgotten, this slight tribute to a professional friend and brother may be dug up out of the archives of our Society and read with interest by those who are to follow us in our profession.

Dr. Philip Abney Wilhite is dead, and it is of him and his past life I must speak to you to-day. Dr. Wilhite was born in Madison County, Georgia, in the year 1822, and died in the city of Anderson, S. C., June 25th, 1892. He was in his 71st year of age at the time of his death. His early education was acquired in the common schools of his day. His parents not being blessed with an abundance of this world's goods, young Wilhite was compelled to make the most of his own money to secure his education. This he did by working on the neighboring farms and wherever he could pick up an odd job after his work at home was finished. These early struggles of our friend was but the laying of the foundation for his great usefulness in his after life. When quite a boy he commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Long, at that time one of the most prominent physicians of Athens, Georgia. It was while a student under Dr. Long that in one of his mischievous pranks with a negro boy he made the wonderful discovery of ether as an anesthetic, which has proven such a great blessing to mankind. After reading medicine for sometime as a student, he attended a course of lectures in the University of New York. On his return home he located at Carnesville, Ga., and practiced his profession about seven or eight years, and was very successful both professionally and principally. He then attended a second course of lectures in the Medical College of South Carolina and from there graduated in 1852. He was married to Miss Cora L. Hilley, of Elbert County, Georgia. About this time our city (or I should say village) of Anderson having been reached by the first railroad in the up-country, our friend began to feel that he wanted a larger field for business, and in 1853 he moved from Carnesville, Ga., to Anderson, S. C. He soon opened up a drug store on what was then known as the Brick Range and commenced the practice of medicine, which he pursued until he was called above—literally dying with the harness on. Our brother was truly a useful man in the community. He was useful in whatever capacity he was called upon to act. I will not detain you by going into his life as a Mason, a Church member, a member of various Societies, &c., but will only speak of him as a physician and his every-day work as a citizen.

It was as a physician our brother was best known among us. From a young man and a stranger in our midst he soon grew into favor, and he came quickly to the front rank in the profession. He was truly a successful doctor, and soon his work began to tell with good effects and his practice commenced to increase rapidly. Physically our brother was a man of great power and endurance. His practice was, indeed, constant and laborious, but he was equal to the emergencies of the hour. He would go over the rough and hilly sections of our County at any and all times, rain or shine, night or day, it made no difference with him; if it was a call of the poor and distressed he could not refuse them, for his noble heart was too full of pity for the suffering and afflicted, and, although he felt satisfied that some of those who were the recipients of his kindly services would never compensate him, either by word or deed, yet he always did what he could to relieve them. Our brother, to those not closely associated with him, was not well understood. He was the best unknown man in our midst; he was truly a "diamond in the rough." To be able to truly appreciate him it was necessary to associate with him closely and intimately, for in his every day walk he was apparently a quiet, unpretentious man, and yet his medical associates will cheerfully bear me out when I say he was full of pride and ambition, and one of his greatest anxieties as a physician was to always be in the very front rank of his profession. On several occasions he quietly left his practice at home and repaired to the great hospital or colleges in the North and spent his time in studying up all the latest improvements and discoveries in the profession that he might be

better enabled to practice more skillfully than ever at home. He was fond of corresponding with the best authors and teachers of the day, and among his friends and correspondents he could number the great medical men of the nation: Marion Simms, Gaillard Thomas, Emmett and others of the North; Geddings, Kinlock, Parker, Taber, Tally and a host of others in the South. Our old State did not fail to do him honor. When the Legislature established a State Board of Health our brother was elected as one of its first members, and at his death he was the last of the original Board to pass away. He was often selected for important positions by the State Board of Health, and when it was determined to send a commission to the West Indies to investigate the cause of yellow fever and to suggest means to prevent its introduction into our State, our brother was honored by being placed on that commission. He went to the West Indies, did his duty, and after a perilous passage on his return, being caught for several days in a fearful storm at sea, he came safely back home and made his report, which is now a part of the medical history of our State. Some time before his death Congress passed an Act offering a reward for the first discovery of anesthesia, and the Medical Association of South Carolina, at one of its annual meetings, instructed its delegates to the National Medical Association, to be held at New Orleans, to lay before that body the claims of our brother, Dr. P. A. Wilhite, as one of the first discoverers of anesthesia and entitled to a part of the appropriation. Thus it will be seen that our brother was not without honor even in his own country. He was often honored with positions of trust and responsibility by the medical profession, which he always filled acceptably. The younger members of the profession always found a true friend and adviser in him—he was ever ready to give them assistance in time of trouble and difficulty. His books and instruments as well as his own skill and experience were always at their command. He was truly a strong pillar and support to the medical profession of his County.

As a citizen he was ever ready and willing to do his part. His public acts are too well known by you to make it necessary for me to repeat them here. He was always anxious that Anderson should be the banner town and County of the State. Of his private character, if time would permit, I would delight to talk about. I will only speak of a few of his noble traits. He was not one of those who delighted to tell what he was going to do and quietly slip away and never do it. Neither did he perform a seemingly kind act and then sound it abroad so that the world might speak of him as a clever fellow and a charity giver; therefore, few knew of the good deeds of our brother. What he did was done so quietly and pleasantly that those whom he helped were made to feel that they were favoring him by receiving his aid rather than receiving favors from him. Just after his death I was standing on the Public Square when a gentleman from the country said to me: "Well, old Dr. Wilhite is dead. I have lost a good friend, a life-long friend. When I was married I was very poor and I was very anxious to have a little home for my family, but I could not see how I could ever get one. One day while Dr. Wilhite was visiting my sick wife I told him I wanted a home, and there was a piece of land soon to be sold in the neighborhood that would suit me. He advised me to buy it, but I told him I had no money. He said I will raise the money for you, and he did raise the money, and I got my home by his kind assistance, and now I have prospered and I have to thank him for giving me my start in life. In my settlement there are a number of others who he has treated the same way." Very few knew of these kind acts of our brother in our very midst, but thanks be to God we are assured that all of these kind acts shall be rewarded openly in the kingdom above.

For 'tis written in heaven
What he has given,
Placed on the records in letters of gold,
Read by the spirits,
Judges of merits,
Some day the name to us all will be told.
Meantime let silence,
Free from all violence,
Drop its mute veil o'er the face of the man.
Seek not to show it,
Strive not to know it,
Go and do likewise, ye brothers who can.

As a parent and husband. How can I speak of him here without invading the very sanctity, as it were, of his home circle, but how can we truly know a man unless we know his home life; so let us dwell for a moment on his inner life, the home. His love for his family was so intensely tender and anxious that it amounted almost

to clamorishness. In his home it was my wife and my children. He delighted to beautify his home and surroundings because his loved ones nestled there. He delighted to entertain his neighbors and friends, because it trained his children to make their home a pleasant place to visit and caused his neighbors and friends to feel a pleasure in visiting him. He was fond of engaging in conversation, in reading and in playing games with his children, for he felt he could better afford to train them up aright than to trust that important duty to others. He felt it was his duty to train his own children for business and to be with him in business. Therefore, he bought a drug store and made both of his sons his partners; one he educated as a druggist and the other as a physician. You know with what care and anxiety he watched the progress of these two boys and the result is before you. His devotion to his wife was truly grand; there was a something so tender and affectionate in his every act toward her. He would speak of her as the one who had mouldered his character through life and who sustained him faithfully in all of his struggles and trials. And when the sad affliction fell upon her, and she was deprived of her sight, he was still more tender and affectionate toward her. He seemed to realize the fact that this sad dispensation of Providence was but a solemn admonition to him that in a few short years his allotted time would pass away, and he, too, would lose sight of the things of this world.

The remnant of his days he seriously and earnestly improved, and became more interested in his Church. He was a constant attendant on the services of the sanctuary and often took an active part in the prayer meeting. He held family prayer in his own home and encouraged it being held by others. He became seriously impressed that he could last but a few short years at best. He said to me often in the last years of his life: "All of my old comrades are gone and I am left alone. I am the last of the building committee who looked after the building of our Baptist Church before the war. All, all, are gone before me. I am now over three score years and ten and I must soon pass away. I am in good health. I feel just as well as I ever did. I do not even have a pain or an ache about me, yet I feel I cannot last much longer." Alas, how true it has proven, for in a few short days afterwards God's finger touched him and he slept. Our brother was sick but a few days, but in that time his sufferings were intense, and yet he bore them with Christian fortitude. His medical brethren were constantly at his bedside doing all in their power to give relief and to save our brother, but their skill was of no avail for the time of his departure was at hand, and our Father above was calling for him. Our brother was fully impressed that the time of his departure was at hand, and oh! how triumphantly he met his death. A few short moments before he passed away he was asked if he knew he was dying and replied, "no, I am only falling asleep in the arms of Jesus." He prayed for his family and those around him and gave them counsel how to live and act so as to meet him above. 'Twas thus our brother passed away. In conclusion I can only scatter these few stray sprigs of evergreen o'er the bier of our deceased friend and brother, and say farewell—a long, long farewell.

Respectfully submitted,
R. F. DIVVER, M. D.

— The emperor of China has to fast 64 days in each year for the sake of religion.



Out on the water in the moonlight. A more beautiful or romantic situation for a young man to tell the story of his love and ask the young woman of his choice to share his life cannot be imagined.

The courtship of a young couple may be ever so romantic and their married life be very unhappy. There are common sense considerations outside of love that have a world to do with the making of married happiness. One of the most important of these considerations is the good health of both parties to the sacred tie. The young man who is in the incipient stages of consumption commits a crime if he marries before he is restored to health. He condemns his wife to the life of a nurse and his children to early death, or lives of sickness and suffering. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures 98 per cent. of all cases of consumption if taken in the earlier stages. This is its record established during the past thirty years. It is the great blood-maker, flesh-builder, nerve-tonic and general restorative.

The young woman who suffers from weakness and disease of the delicate and important organs that make wifehood and motherhood possible has no right to answer "Yes" to a young man's proposal until she is thoroughly restored to health in a womanly way. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription prepares a woman for wifehood and motherhood. It makes her strong, healthy and vigorous where a woman most needs these strength and vigor. Thousands of women have testified to its merits.

"My daughter," writes Mrs. N. A. Thomas, of Little Rock, Ark., "had been under a doctor's care for four years. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, which cured me, also cured her."

Watering Trees at Transplanting.

A correspondent of Green's Fruit-Grower says: "I have planted, perhaps, a million of trees in my lifetime. I have met with but few failures, and can not remember having watered any of these trees. If the soil is made thoroughly fine before planting; if the soil about the roots is pressed in very firm, as firm as a fence-post; if the soil is left loose on the top, and kept continuously loose by cultivation, the trees will live even though the season may be dry."

In connection with this paragraph, it may be noted that, on one occasion within the experience of the writer, a large number of trees which had been planted in the spring, and had grown tolerably well, showed signs during the following very dry summer of withering their leaves for want of water. An examination seemed to show that although the trees had been well planted in the common acceptance of the term, yet the earth in many cases was not packed closely around the roots. It was not convenient to water them. The owner was recommended to pound the earth around the trees with a heavy rammer. This was done. It is almost impossible to convey an idea of the force used on this occasion. A force was exerted fully equal to that employed by the regular rammers in paving the streets. The earth being very dry was reduced to fine powder by this process, and moisture drawn upwards by capillary attraction. In a couple of days afterwards, there was not the slightest sign of withering, although no water had been applied, and they continued to grow without any evidence of suffering for want of water until the next rain came. Had the soil not been heavily beaten in this way, their death would have been absolutely certain.

— "Do you regard late rising as injurious?" "It certainly shortens one's days."

The most vigorous workers have spells of "tired feeling" now and then. This feeling is caused by derangement in the stomach, liver and bowels. A few doses of Prickly Ash Bitters quickly corrects the disorder and sends the blood tingling through the veins, carrying life and renewed energy throughout the system. Sold by Evans Pharmacy.

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One's Future Wife's Name.

He was a chatty kind of conjuror, and was anxious to open the evening's entertainment merrily. So he stepped forward to the front of the stage and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, if there is in this audience any young man who would like to know the name of his future wife, if that young man will kindly step up, I will undertake to tell him, and this is no guessing competition. Now, will any single young man kindly stand up?"

Up jumped a young man in the center of the room.

"Thank you," said the conjuror. "Now do you wish to know the name of your future wife?"

"I do," said the young man.

"Well," said the man of magic, "I always like to do this in a proper business fashion. Will you kindly give me your name?"

"Yes, certainly," said the young man; "my name is Jackson."

"Thank you," replied the conjuror; "then the name of your future wife will be Mrs. Jackson."

— It is a fact not generally known that the United States government clears \$4,000,000 a year profit on the New York post office. It is its great money-maker. Chicago comes next with an annual profit of \$2,500,000, and then Boston and Philadelphia with \$1,300,000 each. Outside of these four cities, the post office department is run at an annual loss of \$15,000,000 a year.

Three Doctors in Consultation.

From Benjamin Franklin.

"When you are sick, what you like best is to be chosen for a medicine in the first place; what experience tells you is best, to be chosen in the second place; what reason (i. e., Theory) says is best to be chosen in the last place. But if you can get Dr. Inclination, Dr. Experience and Dr. Reason to hold a consultation together, they will give you the best advice that can be taken."

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